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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries: INSURANCE
First session
Geneva, 1 February 1993
Agenda item 3

[INSURANCE]

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN THE FIELD OF INSURANCE 1/

Pursuant to "A New Partnership for Development, the Cartagena Commitment", adopted at the eighth session of the Conference, the Standing Committee agreed, on the basis of Board decision 398 (XXXVIII) which sets out, in annex B, the terms of reference of the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries, on the following work programme in the field of insurance for the period up to the ninth session of the Conference.

In carrying out its work the Committee will give due regard to the work and experience of the former Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade and of the UNCTAD secretariat in the area of insurance.

A. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY

The Standing Committee will, with inputs from regional and subregional entities, as appropriate, collect information on insurance operations, markets and experiences, as well as bibliographic references on these subjects in particular, through:

- a statistical survey on insurance and reinsurance operations;

- a review of developments in insurance and reinsurance;

and disseminate the results.

1/ Adopted by the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries: Insurance, at its 5th (closing) plenary meeting, on 5 February 1993.

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B. FOSTERING COMPETITIVE INSURANCE SERVICES

The Standing Committee, with a view to developing and strengthening the insurance sector and enhancing trade, taking into account the particular concerns of developing countries in this sector, will:

1. Prepare a comprehensive study including:

   (a) A review of critical areas of concern with regard to macro-economic policies affecting the insurance sector and of insurance legislation, regulation and supervision in the light of ongoing or potential economic reforms - inter alia of progressive liberalization and privatization of insurance markets - with particular emphasis on issues of prudential regulation and protection of policy holders;

   (b) An analysis, based on contributions received, of the specific and general experience of developing countries and those countries in transition to market economies in fostering a market-oriented insurance sector and in privatizing and liberalizing insurance markets;

   (c) A study on policies and programmes in the context of regional cooperation among developing countries, including reinsurance and opportunities for optimizing retentions;

   (d) Information arising from exchange of experiences on ways and means to develop creditor insurance for the benefit of small and medium-size enterprises in developing countries to facilitate their access to credit from the financial system.

2. Building on previous studies by and information within UNCTAD, to examine alternative mechanisms to meet the insurance and reinsurance needs in respect of:

   - Catastrophies;
   - Environmental impairements;
   - Large risks;

particularly in times of reduced reinsurance capacity.

3. With a view to expanding the domestic sector in agriculture and rural insurance and taking into account the work done by the UNCTAD secretariat, it will:

(a) Examine linkages between insurance schemes, rural credit systems and development strategy in this sector, including the role of cooperatives;

(b) Study crop, livestock, poultry and aquaculture insurances.

In carrying out its work, the Standing Committee will give particular attention to the situation of the least developed countries, and suggest ways and means for improving their capabilities.

C. STRENGTHENING TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The UNCTAD secretariat will provide technical assistance upon request within available resource by:

(i) In the field of technical cooperation, advising and assisting in areas within its competence.

Examples are:

- The revision of insurance legislation or the drafting of new legislation and assistance in the establishment of efficient supervisory bodies;

- Determining the feasibility of establishing and strengthening national or regional insurance entities, as well as insurance training and research institutions;

- The holding of workshops on a regional basis with the purpose of studying in detail the practical operation of agriculture insurance schemes, their infrastructure, existing loss assessment and claims-handling procedures, marketing practices, etc.

(ii) In the field of human resources development:

- Assisting in strengthening insurance education and training programmes provided at national and regional levels, including actuarial science;

- Organizing and conducting meetings, workshops and seminars for supervisory authorities, insurers and reinsurers to promote the exchange of experience and to disseminate the findings of UNCTAD studies and to train personnel at the middle and higher levels to manage insurance activities more effectively .

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Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries: Shipping
Second session

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE PROPOSED INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PORTS

1. The Group will examine factors which can contribute to efficient management and sustainable development of ports and related port services in order to foster competitive maritime transport services and to strengthen capacities for trade.

2. In carrying out its task, the Group of Experts will:

(a) Focus on two main elements of the new work programme, namely:

- Port organization, including issues relating to privatization, commercialization and deregulation;

- Port management, including issues relating to human resources development and strategic planning;

(b) Supplement the expertise available in the secretariat through the presentation by selected ports of the experience gained in the fields of port organization and port management;

(c) Review the relevant recommendations included in the five reports produced by the secretariat, as requested by the intergovernmental group of experts on ports of 1990, and assess their applicability to the development of competitive ports and related ports services, particularly those located in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(d) Review the work carried out by the secretariat in the field of port management training and technical cooperation; and

(e) Prepare a report on the above items for submission to the Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors (Shipping) at its second session.

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Standing Committee on Developing Services
Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services
Sectors in Developing Countries
Second session
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPING SERVICES SECTORS

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Progress report by the secretariat on the implementation of the work programme of the Standing Committee

4. Promoting transparency

   Progress report:

   (i) Development of a conceptual framework for the collation and compilation of internationally comparable statistics (Work programme, item 2(a))

   (ii) The collection and dissemination of information on measures, including laws and regulations, affecting the access of services and service suppliers to world markets, including consideration of the possibility of a computerized data base (idem, item 2(b))

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5. Fostering competitive services sectors

Comparative analysis:

- A comparative analysis of services sectors in developing countries (idem, item 3(a))

Specific studies:

(i) The impact of subsidies on trade in services, especially on the exports of developing countries (idem, item 3(d))

(ii) Temporary movement of persons as services suppliers (idem, item 3(h))

(iii) Analysis of on-going processes of recognition and harmonization of qualifications (idem, item 3(i))

(iv) Regional, subregional and interregional cooperation on services (idem, item 3(j))

6. Technical cooperation

- Identification of areas where technical co-operation should be strengthened

7. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee to the Trade and Development Board.